

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* Richard A. & Ann C. Shors, PO Box 10, Cut Bank, MT 59427
2. *Type of action:* Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 30024759-76I
3. *Water source name:* Groundwater from a 237 foot deep drilled well.
4. *Location affected by action:* The SE quarter of section 3, T29 N, R16 W in Lot 1 of the Dickey Addition, Flathead County.
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*
This application is requesting the Department issue a water use permit for a drilled well in the Glacier National Park Compact Area at the above mentioned location. The applicants propose to divert water at a rate of 10 gpm up to 1 acre-foot for domestic purposes and fire protection on an as needed basis. This well is shared with permit 30020936-76I.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) *The MT Natural Heritage Program, MT Historical Society, MT DEQ, MT FW & P and the National Park Service.*

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: NA

Water quality - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Determination: NA

Groundwater - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: No impacts are anticipated to groundwater quality or supply as a result of this action. Although Dickey Creek is immediately south of this well site, after reviewing the well log, it appears there will be no connections between the creek and this well.

DIVERSION WORKS - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

Determination: This well was drilled by a licensed driller nearly two years ago. No additional impacts are expected.

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

Determination: This area is frequented by Grizzly Bears, but this action will not adversely impact their movements.

Wetlands - Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

Determination: NA

Ponds - For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

Determination: NA

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

Determination: NA

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

Determination: NA

AIR QUALITY - Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

Determination: NA

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Determination: No historic sites were identified on this property.

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water, and energy not already addressed.

Determination: None were identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: This area has been subdivided for some time.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: NA

HUMAN HEALTH - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: NA

PRIVATE PROPERTY - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes___ No_X_. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination:

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - *For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.*

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? None.
 - (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? Slight increase to revenues from development.
 - (c) Existing land uses? None after initial development.
 - (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None
 - (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? Slight
 - (f) Demands for government services? Slight
 - (g) Industrial and commercial activity? None
 - (h) Utilities? Slight
 - (i) Transportation? Slight
 - (j) Safety? Slight
 - (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None identified.
2. ***Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*** *No secondary or cumulative impacts were identified as a result of this action.*
3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** *None are justified at this time.*
4. ***Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** *Other than the no action alternative, the only other one considered was forcing the applicants to acquire a water right permit out of Dickey Creek. This alternative would cause more environmental damage than the preferred action of using this well.*

PART III. Conclusion

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: Because no significant or secondary impacts were identified by this EA, the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this action.

Name of person responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Wes McAlpin

Title: Water Resources Specialist, Kalispell RO

Date: October 27, 2006